NEW AVENGERS

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

HICKMAN
WALKER
MARTIN

023

PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

"EVERYONE DIES. YOU. ME. EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET."

THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF CONTRACTIONS SMASHING TWO UNIVERSES LIKE EACH OF OURS TOGETHER AT THE INCURSION POINT: EARTH. EITHER BOTH EARTHS ARE DESTROYED OR ONE IS SACRIFICED, SPARING BOTH UNIVERSES.

WHAT PLANS COULD ANYONE HAVE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

WE HAVE A BOMB THAT CAN DESTROY A PLANET.

HOW DARE YOU ALL PUT YOUR LIVES--YOUR DAMNED MORALS--ABOVE THE LIVES OF EVERY LIVING THING? NOW WATCH...

...AS I DO WHAT YOU COULD NOT!

"OUR SUN. OUR GALAXY. AND EVENTUALLY THE UNIVERSE ITSELF."

OTHER MEN DO NOT MAKE CHOICES FOR ME, NAMOR.

ESPECIALLY NOT *YOU*.

"THIS IS SIMPLY HOW THINGS ARE."

THIS WAS OUR *ONLY* CHOICE, AND IN ALL YOUR WEAKNESS, I MADE IT FOR YOU.

SO I AM OWED YOUR *THANKS*.

"IT'S INEVITABLE."

LEAVE, NAMOR. *NOW!*

"...AND I ACCEPT IT."

THE ILLUMINATI

BLACK BOLT
Celestial Messiah

NAMOR
Imperius Rex

REED RICHARDS
Universal Builder

IRON MAN
Master of Machines

BEAST
Mutant Genius

DOCTOR STRANGE
Sorcerer Supreme

BLACK PANTHER
King of the Dead

HULK
Strongest There Is

YOUNG BEAST

WONG

STORM

SUSAN RICHARDS

VALERIA RICHARDS

KRISTOFF VERNARD

DR. DOOM

LOCKJAW

MAXIMUS

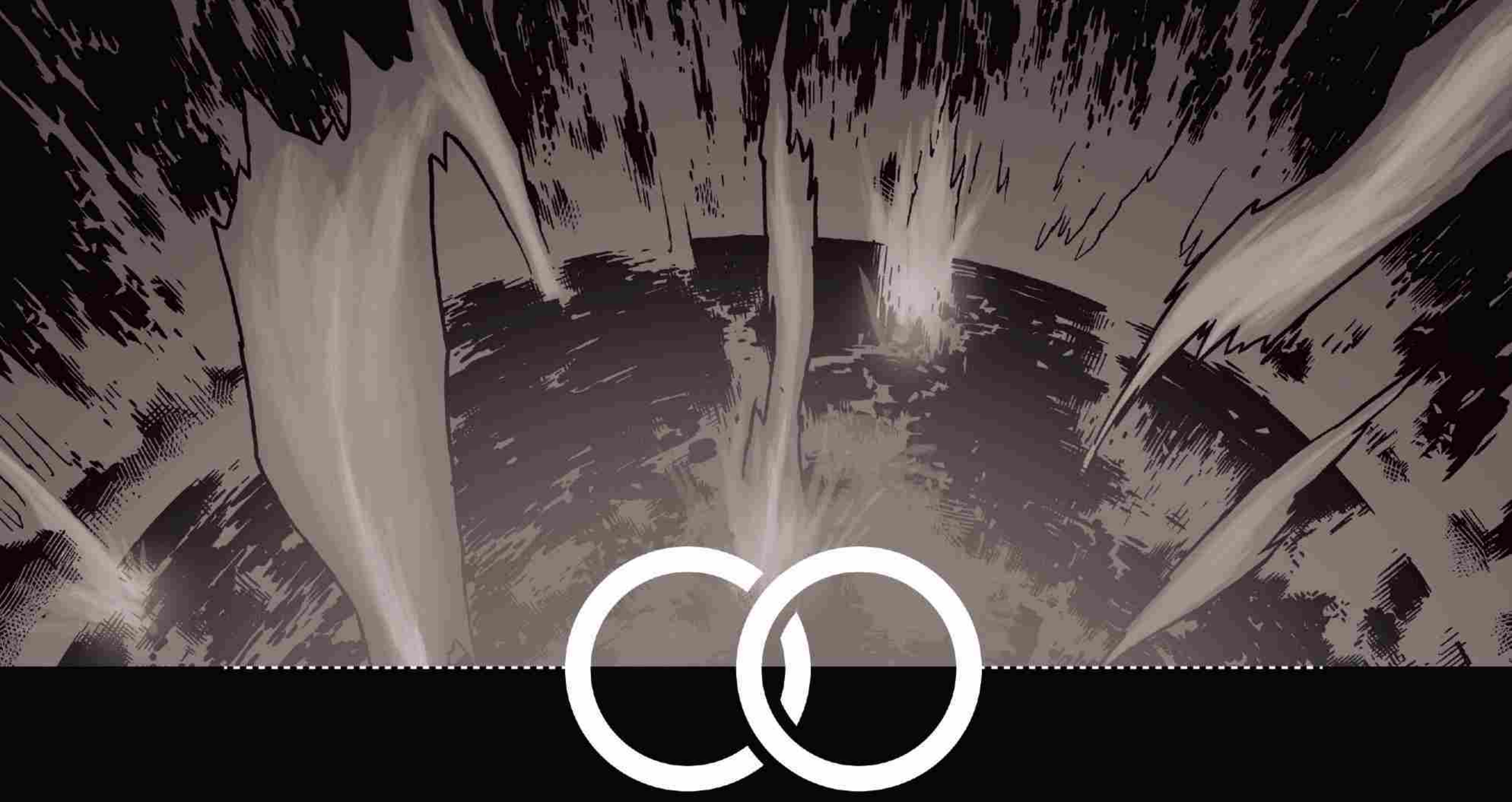
BLACK SWAN

TERRAX

THANOS

PROXIMA MIDNIGHT

CORVUS GLAIVE



“ALL THE ANGELS HAVE FALLEN”

WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN
ARTIST: KEV WALKER
COLOR ARTIST: FRANK MARTIN
LETTERER: VC’s JOE CARAMAGNA
COVER ART: CHRISTIAN WARD

ASSISTANT EDITOR: JAKE THOMAS
EDITORS: TOM BREVOORT with WIL MOSS
EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA
PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

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MY GOD. IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN.

ANOTHER INCURSION...

WHAT NOW, T'CHALLA? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

I CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF ANOTHER WORLD, REED. I SIMPLY CANNOT.

CAN YOU, MY FRIEND?

07:55:24

NO.

"THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO.

"WE DIE, REED...AND HOPEFULLY BETTER THAN WE LIVED."

NEW MEXICO.

BOB'S GAS N' GO

JUST THIS AND WHATEVER'S ON PUMP THREE.

GAS

NEED TO SEE SOME I.D.

SURE. AND THANK YOU FOR THAT.

NEW MEXICO

DRIVERS LICENCE

Licence# 0795687

ISSUED 03/01/2011

EXP 03/01/2015

Date of Birth 10/

BANNER

ROBERT BRUCE

123 MAIN STREET

ALBUQUERQUE NM 87102

SEX M

HEIGHT 5' 11"

WEIGHT 220

EYES BRO

CLASS D

ENDORSEMENT

RESTRICTION

Bruce Banner

US ARMY

RESTRICTED ACCESS

DANGER RADIATION

CLOSED

PFFSST!

THIS IS IT, BIG GUY...

END OF THE WORLD.

THIS IS HOW I'M *FINALLY* GONNA GET YOU.

THREE HOURS UNTIL INCURSION.

THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL FOR HIGHER LEARNING.

02:36:12

SO IF I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY...

...YOU'RE TELLING ME *YOU BLEW UP A WORLD?*

AHHH, ACTUALLY I MOST CERTAINLY DID ***NOT***, THOUGH THERE IS NO DENYING MY COMPLICITY IN THE ACT ITSELF...

AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, NO GETTING AROUND THE CONUNDRUM THAT IS THE DECISION TREE OF AN END-TIMES, NO-WIN SCENARIO.

I'M SURE YOU COMPREHEND THE COMPLEXITIES.

UH, NO. I'M NOT SURE I DO.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY YOU BROUGHT ME HERE TO TELL ME ALL THIS.

BECAUSE I'M CONFLICTED...

I HONESTLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO... EVEN IN THE FACE OF THE ***REALITY*** THAT THERE IS NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL I ***CAN*** DO.

I FIND MYSELF TRAPPED BETWEEN THE METAPHORICAL INTELLECTUAL ROCK AND MORAL HARD PLACE, YOUNG HENRY.

GIVEN THAT WE ARE ALL GOING TO DIE...SHOULD I SHOULDER THIS BURDEN SILENTLY, LETTING THE LIVES OF EVERYONE I KNOW WINK OUT IN A STATE OF PEACEFUL IGNORANCE?

OR SHOULD I TELL THE WORLD--SCREAM IT FROM THE MOUNTAINS--AND INDUCE A GLOBAL PANIC THAT HAS NO HOPE OF A SOLUTION?

HENCE THE QUESTION: WHAT IS THE MORAL DECISION? WHAT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO?

WHICH BRINGS US TO YOU...

WITH WHO ELSE COULD I TALK THIS THROUGH EXCEPT THE ONLY PERSON WHOSE OPINION I TRULY TRUST--***ME.***

SO...GIVEN THAT, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHAT DO I THINK?

WELL, IF I'M BEING HONEST... I'M HAVING A BIT OF A HARD TIME WRAPPING MY MIND AROUND THIS...SITUATION.

FRANKLY, I'M STRUGGLING WITH ANOTHER ASPECT OF THIS.

WHICH IS?

HOW, GIVEN ALL THIS... GIVEN YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN IT...WELL...

HOW IN THE HELL DID YOU THINK IT WAS FAIR TO BRING US INTO THE FUTURE AND MISS OUR ENTIRE LIVES IF ALL THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN WAS WE DIE?!

YES. I CAN SEE HOW THAT MIGHT PREOCCUPY THE MIND.

I'M SORRY, HENRY...HOPE IS A BLIND FOOL.

MY ACTIONS WERE... REGRETTABLE.

CAN I ASK YOU ANOTHER QUESTION, DOCTOR MCCOY?

OF COURSE.

DO YOU REMEMBER EXACTLY WHEN IT WAS THAT YOU **COMPLETELY** LOST YOUR WAY?

TWO POINT FIVE HOURS UNTIL INCURSION.

THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM.

THANK YOU, WONG.

THAT WILL BE ALL.

OF COURSE.

AND WONG...

YES, DOCTOR?

I HAVE SOMETHING THAT I... THAT...

YES?

AM I A GOOD MAN?

NO.

TWO HOURS UNTIL INCURSION.

STARK RESIDENCE.
THE HAMPTONS.

SO, TONY... ARE YOU FALLEN?

A BROKEN MACHINE BEYOND REPAIR?

DID YOU DO YOUR BEST, ANTHONY? AND DID YOUR BEST ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE?

YOUR VAUNTED VIEW OF EVERYTHING-- HOW TO BUILD THE WORLD BETTER--WASN'T IT REALLY JUST A BLUE-PRINT OF YET ANOTHER DEATH MACHINE?

I GUESS THE QUESTION NOW IS: HOW DO YOU REVERSE-ENGINEER THE WORKS OF A DEVIL?

OR BETTER PUT, HOW DO YOU GET THE DEMON BACK IN THE BOTTLE?

I THINK WE KNOW, DON'T WE?

YOU *CAN'T.*

IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING. YOU FOOLISH, FOOLISH MAN.

YOU GAMBLED EVERYTHING AND *LOST.*

AT LEAST I'M GONNA BEAT YOU.

ONE HOUR UNTIL INCURSION.

THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL FOR HIGHER LEARNING.

"WHY DID YOU COME HERE, T'CHALLA?"

I ASKED MYSELF, IF I HAD ONE DAY LEFT...IF I HAD JUST ONE MOMENT REMAINING, WHERE WOULD I WANT TO BE?

I DID NOT THINK OF DUTY-- WHERE I SHOULD BE, OR EVEN MY HOME-- WAKANDA. I THOUGHT OF BEING HERE... AND WITH *YOU*.

WHO WOULD EVER BELIEVE I WAS A ROMANTIC?

THAT'S FUNNY. I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE THE MOST ROMANTIC MAN I HAD EVER KNOWN.

I OFTEN THINK ABOUT WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN...

AND HOW THE UNIVERSE FOUND SOMETHING SO BEAUTIFUL UNFIT FOR THE WORLD.

WHY COULDN'T I HAVE JUST BEEN A KING WHO HAD FOUND HIS QUEEN?

BECAUSE IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO LAST...THAT'S ALL.

WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE TOGETHER...

AND I WAS NOT MEANT TO BE A QUEEN--OUR RESPONSIBILITIES ROBBED US OF THAT...OUR CHOICES COST US EVERYTHING.

NOW, PLEASE... YOU SHOULD GO...

THIS WAS A MISTAKE.

I WOULD HAVE LOVED YOU FOREVER...

ONLY NOW I KNOW THAT FOREVER DOESN'T EXIST.

BUT YOU, ORORO... YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A QUEEN.

TWENTY MINUTES UNTIL INCURSION.

CASTLE DOOM.

IT'S LATE...

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY TO DO THIS, REED?

WE AGREED ON A CERTAIN PROTOCOL, SUSAN.

SO I HONESTLY DON'T CARE *WHAT* TIME IT IS-- WE RADIOED AHEAD, GAVE THE PROPER CLEARANCE, AND AGAIN, AS AGREED, FOLLOWED ALL THE FORMS.

NOW I WANT TO CHECK ON *MY DAUGHTER.*

OUR BABY GIRL IS CURRENTLY LIVING WITH VICTOR VON DOOM, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONVINCE ME THAT, IN THIS INSTANCE, GOOD PARENTING MEANS CONSTANT SUPERVISION AND COURSE CORRECTING...

BUT FIRST THERE WAS YOUR URGENCY TO CHECK ON FRANKLIN AND THE REST OF THE FOUNDATION KIDS, THEN, IN THE SAME DAY, TO FLY HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD TO SEE VAL.

AM I MISSING SOMETHING?

NO, SUSAN...

I'M JUST SEEING *ALL* OF MY FAMILY TODAY.

SUSAN, REED...GOOD TO SEE YOU. HAVE TO SAY, WE'RE NOT USED TO SUCH IMPORTANT VISITORS AT THIS HOUR...SO WE'RE A BIT UNPREPARED. IS THERE...

NO NEED FOR POMP, KRISTOFF. WE'RE JUST HERE TO SEE VAL. IS THAT GOING TO BE A PROBLEM?

OF COURSE NOT. THIS WAY...

FATHER IS WAITING FOR YOU.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, RICHARDS?

HERE IN LATVERIA, DOOM DEMANDS THAT CHILDREN ALWAYS GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.

HI, MOM.

SO WHAT DIRE EMERGENCY IS THIS?

IS THE WORLD ENDING EARLY? OR IS THIS SIMPLY THE KIND OF WEAK-WILLED SOFTNESS THAT PASSES FOR BEING A FATHER THESE DAYS?

SHUT UP, VICTOR.

HEY, KIDDO... I'VE MISSED YOU.

AND SHOULD I BOTHER TO MAKE THE SAME INQUIRY OF YOU, SUSAN, OR WOULD I JUST RECEIVE MORE BLUSTER?

NO...IT'S FINE. REED WAS INSISTENT THAT HE SEE FRANKLIN AND VALERIA TODAY, SO HERE WE ARE...

I WOULD NEVER DENY THE CHILDREN TIME WITH REED, VICTOR. WHATEVER HIS REASON.

OF COURSE. AND WHAT IS...THIS REASON?

I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW.

AND DOES THAT CONCERN *YOU* AS MUCH AS IT DOES *ME*, SUSAN?

YES.

00:05:03

OH, DADDY...

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

FIVE MINUTES UNTIL INCURSION.

THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.

ONE MINUTE UNTIL INCURSION.

FIFTY SECONDS UNTIL INCURSION.

FORTY SECONDS...

THIRTY SECONDS...

TWENTY SECONDS...

TEN SECONDS...

VMMMM

INCURSION.

INCURSION PLUS TEN SECONDS...

INCURSION PLUS TWENTY SECONDS...

INCURSION PLUS THIRTY SECONDS...

INCURSION PLUS FORTY SECONDS...

INCURSION PLUS FIFTY SECONDS...

INCURSION PLUS SIXTY SECONDS...

WHAT THE HELL...?

THE BAXTER BUILDING.
CURRENTLY QUARANTINED.

SOMEONE WANT TO EXPLAIN WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

UH, OR, TECHNICALLY... WHAT DIDN'T HAPPEN.

WHICH I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD ALL BE RATHER GRATEFUL FOR.

IT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?

WE-- YOU--ALL OF US...WERE WRONG.

NO. THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT, BRUCE. WE'VE CATALOGED COUNTLESS INCURSIONS THAT REACHED A TERMINAL POINT. EVERY TIME THE SAME THING HAPPENS.

BEYOND THAT, ALL THE EVIDENCE UP TO NOW SUPPORTED OUR WORKING THEORY.

WELL, IT ONLY TAKES ONE OPPOSING INCIDENT TO DISPROVE THE TOTALITY OF OUR LITTLE HYPOTHESIS, REED.

STILL...I AGREE WITH YOU, THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING ELSE AT PLAY HERE...SOMETHING WE'RE MISSING...

THERE HAS TO BE, DOESN'T THERE?

I MEAN... OF COURSE THERE IS...THERE MUST BE. BECAUSE IF NOT...

IF NOT...THEN YOU ALL KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

IT MEANS WE KILLED...A WORLD...FOR NOTHING!

NOTHING!

NOTHING!

SO, YES...WE HAD BETTER FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED, BECAUSE **NONE** OF US CAN LIVE WITH THIS IF WE DON'T.

T'CHALLA... MY FRIEND...I FEEL THE SAME WAY...

...BUT IF I'M HONEST, THEN I CAN'T HELP BUT CONSIDER--

BLACK BOLT? WHAT IS...

OH...OH, NO...

OH MY GOD...

WHAT IS IT, REED?

WHAT DID HE SAY?

HE...HE SAID:

"WHERE'S..."

"NAMOR?"

FOUR HOURS AGO.

EVERYTHING DIES.

YOU. ME. EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET.

OUR SUN. OUR GALAXY. AND, EVENTUALLY, THE UNIVERSE ITSELF.

THIS IS SIMPLY HOW THINGS ARE.

IT'S INEVITABLE....

AND I ACCEPT IT.

WHAT I WILL NOT TOLERATE--WHAT I FIND ***UNACCEPTABLE***--IS GOING QUIETLY, LIKE SOME MEWLING CHILD, BEFORE MY TIME.

THERE IS SOMETHING OUT THERE, COMING FOR US, TRYING TO KILL US ALL--AND I WOULD DO TO IT WHAT IT WOULD DO TO US.

BROTHERS. SISTERS. ALL THE ANGELS HAVE FALLEN, AND WE DEVILS ARE ALL THAT REMAIN...SO I ASK YOU...

WILL YOU HELP ME ***KILL WORLDS?***

RISE, THE CABAL.

EARTH-9004.

NEW AVENGERS

Zone